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I originally sought out the satellite radio option due to the lack of interest in the local station programming and the inability to maintain coverage in remote interstate areas, however it is my opinion that the XM service can offer a viable and suitable alternative to local programming and I welcome the service to explore a "locally oriented" content.

Over the past few years I have made several long distance road trips and found it frustrating to jump from one local channel to another trying to find an up-to-date road or weather report to determine travel plans. I trust that given the opportunity, XM will provide a quicker and safer alternative to local traffic/weather conditions to its "on-the-road" customers.

It is my choice to listen to stations that offer what I look for. If the local programming retains my interest and is more informative than XM with regards to local news/event, so be it, I shall tune in. However, more times than not, I change the station because the ratio of commercials to actual news or music is too one sided.

If the local programs feel threatened then perhaps they need to re-examine their content and programming lineup. We each have our own individual "tastes" in tv/radio programming and we watch/listen to those stations that appeal to us. If the station does not deliver what we wish to see or hear, we don't shut them down, we just change the channel.

It may well be that stations will still retain their "local" audience over XM, but for those of us who explore beyond the local borders, let us have our own choice.